



March 2, 2009

Honorable Kate Ebli, Chairwoman
House Committee on Tax Policy
990 Anderson House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Elbi;

Please accept the following comments from the Lake States Lumber Association regarding HB 4200.

The Lake States Lumber Association which represents sawmills and lumber manufacturing facilities throughout Michigan supports HB 4200. Michigan's forest products industry is a \$12 billion industry that provides over 120,000 manufacturing jobs in our state. Our industry is attracted to and depends upon our state's 19 million acres of forest land for raw materials in our sawmills and processing plants.

Small private woodland owners own 57% of Michigan's 19 million acres of forest land and are a major source of raw material for our industry. Unfortunately there are few incentives for landowners to help retain and manage their forest land forcing them to subdivide and sell their land. Fragmentation of our private forest lands and declining timber production on publicly owned forest lands are having a significant impact on our ability to operate in Michigan. The average private forest land owner only harvests timber once during her/his ownership and timber production is not their primary reason for ownership. Those private forest land owners who live on or adjacent to their woodlots utilize their land for a wide range of activities associated with their primary residence. Protection from weather and sun, recreation, hunting, berry picking and gathering firewood are a few activities they enjoy while at the same time protecting surface water, purifying air and providing scenic beauty for our state. The environmental benefit alone our state receives from maintaining healthy forests far outweighs the cost of including these adjacent properties in the landowner's principle residence.

We urge your committee to support HB 4200. Please feel free to contact Gene Francisco (608-825-3964) or Will Borden (616-902-1921) if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Will Borden
Quality Hardwoods Inc
Sunfield, MI

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